

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

September 6, 2005
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Noble, and Councilmembers Balducci, Chelminiak, Davidson, and Lee

ABSENT: Councilmember Degginger

1. Executive Session

At 6:02 p.m., Deputy Mayor Noble opened the meeting and noted the 5:30 p.m. Special Meeting (Executive Session). He announced recess to return to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to continue discussion of one item of pending litigation. Executive Session concluded at 6:36 p.m.

The Study Session resumed at 6:43 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Update on Prosperity Partnership

City Manager Steve Sarkozy opened discussion of the Prosperity Partnership by introducing Bill McSherry from the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Mr. McSherry reviewed the six guiding principles of the Prosperity Partnership relating to jobs, the role of businesses, embracing diversity, vitality of cities and communities, environmental preservation, quality of life, and regional collaboration on a shared economic agenda. He noted issues from the 2005 state legislative session that pertain to the region's economic strategy including transportation investments, ethics law reform, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund, and two solar energy bills.

The first phase of the Prosperity Partnership focuses on five business clusters: 1) Aerospace, 2) Clean Technology, 3) Information Technology, 4) Life Sciences, and 5) Logistics and International Trade. [Initiatives for each cluster were provided in written form but not reviewed

during the meeting.] Representatives from all five clusters identified overall foundation initiatives covering the following six areas: 1) Transportation, 2) Commercial Technology , 3) New and Small Business Support, 4) Education, 5) Tax Structure Reform, and 6) Social Capital (strong civic and nonprofit community). A final strategy is slated for adoption on September 27. Comments on the draft plan will be accepted through September 9. The draft plan and additional information is available at www.prosperitypartnership.org.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. McSherry said Bellevue Chamber of Commerce has committed to working with other Chambers in the region to develop small business and entrepreneurship support.

Mr. McSherry thanked Bellevue for being an early supporter of this partnership.

(b) Draft Bellevue Environmental Philosophy

Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry opened discussion regarding the City's environmental philosophy, which will be refined and incorporated into an Environmental Interest Statement. He noted the City's programs encompassing recycling, garbage service, Stream Team activities, protection of fish habitat, regulations protecting streams and wetlands, critical areas regulations, management of Native Growth Protection Areas, and parks/trail development. Mr. Terry described the current regional strategy for salmon recovery, upcoming changes to the National Pollution Discharge permit requirements, and the local Critical Areas Update under development. The proposed Environmental Philosophy statement [Page SS 2-25 of packet] provides a clear description of the City's mission and values. The intent is to provide a connection and balance between environmental initiatives and other policies affecting the City.

Mr. Terry noted the City Manager's "One City" concept advocating an integrated, consistent approach to service delivery. An Environmental Philosophy and Interest Statement will help promote a coordinated approach toward common City objectives. Mr. Terry explained that the City's commitment to environmental stewardship is articulated in the Comprehensive Plan. The plan focuses on future generations and states that environmental strategies must be tailored to fit local values and meet local circumstances. The plan states that the natural environment is a key factor in how residents think about Bellevue and why they choose to live here.

Utilities Director Brad Miyake provided examples of how Bellevue's environmental principles are reflected in utilities programs affecting storm and surface water, streams, fish habitat, recycling, water conservation, solid waste, and educational outreach. Bellevue is a national leader in storm water utilities designed to preserve fish habitat. As a member of Cascade Water Alliance, Bellevue is planning for future water needs.

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman noted the Transportation Department's role in both mitigating environmental impacts and enhancing the environment. Projects consistently address wetland impacts, water quality enhancements, noise mitigation, aesthetics, and up-to-date design standards. Mr. Sparrman described Bellevue's commitment to providing a multimodal transportation system that offers options for individuals and helps to reduce environmental impacts. Additional areas of emphasis include air quality and traffic operations.

Parks Director Patrick Foran noted the Parks Department's effort to support and balance multiple goals. In 1953, there were 5,000 people and 1.5 acres of preserved public land in Bellevue. In 2005, there are more than 120,000 people and 2,500 acres of preserved public land. Mr. Foran explained that the foundation of the park system is the connected greenways around streams, large forest tracts, and wetlands throughout the community. This foundation provides ecosystems within the urban environment that are effective in preserving wildlife habitats. The four major program areas within the Parks Department are acquisitions, land/forest management, greenways and trails, and environmental education and interpretation.

Mr. Terry requested Council feedback on the proposed Environmental Philosophy statement.

Dr. Davidson feels it is important for the public to understand that this is an overall philosophical statement rather than a policy document.

Mr. Sarkozy referred to a citizen's suggestion that the City should embrace the International Organization for Standardization/ISO 14001 environmental standard. This standard was considered by the City some years ago. However, the City chose alternate accreditation avenues and is the only city in the country with all of its operating departments professionally accredited or in process. Mr. Sarkozy feels the ISO standard is a good model to consider again in the future.

Councilmember Lee expressed general support for the statement. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Sparrman said the City used rubberized asphalt for some projects 10 to 15 years ago. The State has experimented extensively with different types of rubberized asphalt as well. However, the surface does not hold up well to studded tires, which are allowed during the winter months.

Mr. Chelminiak expressed support for Bellevue's tradition of a practical approach to environmental protection and preservation.

Mayor Marshall suggested asking the City's Boards and Commissions to review the proposed Environmental Philosophy statement. Councilmembers concurred.

Responding to Ms. Balducci, Mr. Terry opined that the statement will be used to tailor regulations and as a reference point for environmental initiatives.

(c) Wrap-Around Services Pilot Project

Mr. Foran introduced Judy Buckmaster, Principal of Lake Hills Elementary School; Vicky Murray, Assistant Superintendent, Bellevue School District; and Helena Stephens, Acting Recreation Special Services Manager. He recalled a presentation to Council on April 18 describing the Wrap-Around Services Pilot Project with Bellevue School District and United Way of King County. Updates were provided to the Bellevue School Board on April 19 and to the Parks and Community Services Board on July 12. Staff is seeking Council direction tonight to proceed with the project plan.

The overall project objective is to coordinate health, human services, and recreation programs for children and families using schools as the focal point for communication, service delivery, information, and referral. Common goals include keeping children safe, enhancing academic achievement and enrichment, improving health and wellness of children and families, assisting teachers and parents with issues affecting student performance, preserving neighborhood vitality, maximizing the effectiveness of resources, and contributing to economic development by enhancing the overall quality of life.

The Oversight Committee is composed of Councilmember Balducci and representatives from Bellevue School Board, United Way Board, Bellevue School District, the City, and Lake Hills School. The project Work Group includes staff from Bellevue School District, United Way, Lake Hills School, the City (Human Services, Parks, Planning and Community Development, Police, and Recreation Departments/Divisions), and Casey Family Programs. Judith Clegg, Clegg & Associates, is a consultant for the project. The planning process included a needs assessment and a review of relevant best practices. The following needs or service gaps have been identified: 1) academics, 2) social and health services, 3) recreation, 4) family involvement, and 5) volunteering. One area of emphasis will be family health education in an attempt to reduce absenteeism at Lake Hills School. Another goal is to provide transportation to existing recreation programs in the area.

Mr. Foran said the Wrap-Around Services implementation plan recommends hiring one limited-term employee (LTE) to: 1) coordinate between service providers, 2) provide information and referral systems, 3) coordinate community outreach activities, and 4) monitor data and program outcomes. Additional elements of the implementation plan include establishing a management structure, refining the program content, setting up an outcomes monitoring system, and creating outreach activities.

The next Bellevue School Board presentation is scheduled for September 20. Periodic updates will be provided to Council and the School Board.

- ➡ Councilmember Balducci moved to proceed with the Wrap-Around Services Pilot Project and to fill one LTE position to staff the project.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Noble, Mr. Foran noted the importance of each project partner's commitment of resources. Mr. Foran said a funding mechanism will need to be identified if a long-term program is to be integrated into the overall school district and community.

Mr. Lee commented on the need for a three- to five-year vision for the program.

- ➡ The motion to proceed with the Wrap-Around Services Pilot Project and to fill one LTE position to staff the project carried by a vote of 6-0, with Mr. Degginger absent.

(d) Second Quarter 2005 Budget Monitoring Report

[Moved to Regular Session Agenda Item12, Unfinished Business.]

3. Discussion

- (a) Application by BJ Properties for Kirkwood Gardens PUD
(This is a quasi-judicial matter. Council action is scheduled for September 19, 2005. The site of the application is within the East Bellevue Community Council jurisdiction.)

[Moved to Regular Session Agenda Item12, Unfinished Business.]

At 8:02 p.m., Mayor Marshall announced recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

kaw